

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



**TONI ATKINS**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
THIRD DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **North Park Theatre Renovation Receives Unanimous Council Approval**

#### **Fischer to Develop Landmark as Live Theatre Venue San Diego Comic Opera Looks to Call Theatre Home**

**SAN DIEGO**--After sitting vacant for almost two decades, the fabled North Park Theatre moved one giant step closer to re-opening its doors for live theater after the unanimous passage at council today. On motions made by Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins, the Council, sitting as the Redevelopment Agency approved a development agreement with Bud Fischer to renovate the historic North Park Theatre, a landmark structure that has been a cornerstone in the community since 1929.

"I don't think I'm being overly dramatic when I say that this is a watershed moment in the history of North Park, and a day which many long-time North Park residents have been dreaming of for quite some time," said Councilmember Atkins. "But as they say, good things come to those who wait. I believe the timing is perfect for us to take this bold move forward to bring the North Park Theatre back to life."

As part of the DDA, Fischer is required to exercise his "best efforts" to locate a tenant who will operate the premises as a venue for live theatre. Both Fischer and representatives of the San Diego Comic Opera testified that they are working toward an agreement which will make the North Park Theatre the permanent home of the Comic Opera.

"I am immensely encouraged by the statements made today by the members of the San Diego Comic Opera. I am impressed with their commitment to this project and their passion for live theatre, and I am confident they will do whatever they can to raise the funds to make the North Park Theatre their permanent home," Atkins said. "A large amount of my support and confidence in this DDA going forward today is based on your plans for this theatre."

The Redevelopment Agency has commissioned a parking study of the surrounding area which is expected to substantiate the need for a 400-car parking structure to sustain this live-theatre venue. The results of the study should be ready four to five months from today.

"The residents and businesses of North Park have waited for more than two decades for this moment.

I can't think of any single project in North Park that has more good will behind it than this one," Atkins said. "It's one of the reasons why the North Park Theatre is one of my top 10 goals for Council District Three. It's an important community asset that the residents of my district have asked me to fight to save."

The City's agreement with developer Arnold G. "Bud" Fisher, operating under the name North Park Theatre, LLC, brings more than 30 years of experience in rehabilitating historic buildings in San Diego to this project. Fisher and the performing arts community are also contributing \$2.6 million to the renovation's estimated \$5.9 million cost.

Renovations will include remodeling the theatre to accommodate 800 seats, a new theatre entrance and marquee, and interior improvements such as air conditioning, heating, and lighting. The theatre will feature 5,800 square feet of retail space on the ground floor and 6,700 square feet of office space on the second floor.

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